

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, CA

SUBJECT: US STATEMENTS IN 1963 ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: FORDNEY/KRUSE PHONE CONVERSATION, MAY 20

IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST, DEPARTMENT PROVIDES
FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

1. DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE OF JANUARY 30, 1963:

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE DURING A RECENT DEBATE IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS BETWEEN THE US AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS RELATING TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES.

"IN 1958 THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ADOPT THE BOMARC-B WEAPONS SYSTEMS. ACCORDINGLY TWO BOMARC-B SQUADRONS WERE DEPLOYED TO CANADA WHERE THEY WOULD SERVE THE DOUBLE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING MONTREAL AND TORONTO AS WELL AS THE US DETERRENT FORCE. THE BOMARC-B WAS NOT DESIGNED TO CARRY ANY CONVENTIONAL WARHEAD. THE MATTER OF

MAKING AVAILABLE A NUCLEAR WARHEAD FOR IT AND FOR OTHER

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NUCLEAR-CAPABLE WEAPONS SYSTEMS ACQUIRED BY CANADA HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE INSTALLATION OF THE TWO BOMARC-B BATTERIES IN CANADA WITHOUT NUCLEAR WARHEADS WAS COMPLETED IN 1962.

"IN ADDITION TO THE BOMARC-B, A SIMILAR PROBLEM EXISTS WITH RESPECT TO THE MODERN SUPERSONIC JET INTERCEPTOR WITH WHICH THE RCAF HAS BEEN PROVIDED. WITHOUT NUCLEAR AIR DEFENSE WARHEADS, THEY OPERATE AT FAR LESS THAN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS.

"SHORTLY AFTER THE CUBAN CRISIS IN OCTOBER 1962, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSED CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THERE MIGHT BE PROVISION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN CANADA AND EUROPE. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN EXPLORATORY IN NATURE; THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT AS YET PROPOSED ANY ARRANGEMENT SUFFICIENTLY PRACTICAL TO CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE.

"THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO INVOLVED POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR CANADIAN NATO FORCES IN EUROPE, SIMILAR TO THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THE US HAS MADE WITH MANY OF OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES.

"DURING THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS VARIOUS REFERENCES WERE MADE TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS AT NASSAU. THE AGREEMENTS MADE AT NASSAU HAVE BEEN FULLY PUBLISHED. THEY RAISE NO QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATENESS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR CANADIAN FORCES IN FULFILLING THEIR NATO OR NORAD OBLIGATIONS.

"REFERENCE WAS ALSO MADE IN THE DEBATE TO THE NEED OF NATO INCREASED CONVENTIONAL FORCES. A FLEXIBLE AND BALANCED DEFENSE REQUIRES INCREASED CONVENTIONAL FORCES, BUT CONVENTIONAL FORCES NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO EFFECTIVE NATO OR NORAD DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS USING NUCLEAR-CAPABLE WEAPONS SYSTEMS. NORAD IS DESIGNED TO THE NORTH
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AMERICAN CONTINENT AGAINST AIR ATTACK. THE SOVIET FLEET WILL REMAIN AT LEAST THROUGHOUT THIS DECADE A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN THE SOVIET STRIKE FORCE. AN EFFECTIVE CONTINENTAL DEFENSE AGAINST THIS COMMON THREAT IS NECESSARY.

"THE PROVISION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO CANADIAN FORCES WOULD INVOLVE AN EXPANSION OF INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR

CAPABILITY, OR AN INCREASE IN THE 'NUCLEAR CLUB'. AS IN THE CASE OF OTHER ALLIES CUSTODY OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS

WOULD REMAIN WITH THE US. A CONTROL FULLY CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY CAN BE WORKED OUT TO COVER THE USE OF SUCH WEAPONS BY CANADIAN FORCES."

2. SECRETARY RUSK'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF FEBRUARY 1, 1963:

"THE FOLLOWING IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RELEASE OF SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK'S NEWS CONFERENCE, WHICH IS AUTHORIZED FOR DIRECT QUOTATION:

"I WISH TO MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT AT THE BEGINNING ON THE CRITICISM WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM FRIENDS IN CANADA ON ACCOUNT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON JANUARY 30. THERE IS A STRONG TRADITION OF FAIR PLAY IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND OUR FRIENDSHIP IS TOO CLOSE FOR A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THIS SORT. I WISH TO SAY TO ALL CANADIANS THAT WE REGRET IT IF ANY WORDS OF OURS HAVE BEEN SO PHRASED AS TO GIVE OFFENSE, BUT THE NEED TO MAKE SOME CLARIFYING STATEMENT AROSE FROM A SITUATION NOT OF OUR MAKING.

"IT BECAME NECESSARY AS THE RESULT OF STATEMENTS MADE IN THE COURSE OF DEBATE IN OTTAWA LAST WEEK. WITHOUT NOTICE TO US--AND WE UNDERSTAND HOW THIS CAN HAPPEN IN THE HEAT OF DEBATE--THERE WAS A DISCLOSURE THAN OF CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND A NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS WERE PUT FORWARD BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS WHICH APPEARED TO OFFER NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF THE POLICIES OF THE US.

"AS A RESULT, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED WITH OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT BY CANADIAN AND AMERICAN REPORTERS, BY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS, AND BY ORDINARY CITIZENS. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE SHOULD HAVE TO GIVE SOME ACCOUNT OF OUR OWN VIEWS. THIS QUESTION, AFTER ALL, IS ONE WHICH INVOLVES THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF BOTH OUR PEOPLES. OUR COMMON EFFORT FOR THE DEFENSE OF NORTH AMERICA, AND OUR PARTNERSHIP IN NATO NECESSARILY INVOLVE US ALL. YET WE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THESE ISSUES ARE POLITICALLY VERY SENSITIVE IN CANADA, AND WE DID NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION AT A LEVEL WHICH WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY CRITICISM OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP FROM ANY LEADING OFFICER OF OUR GOVERNMENT. NEITHER DID WE BELIEVE THAT A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST WAS APPROPRIATE. SUCH A PROTEST INDEED MIGHT HAVE BEEN CALLED INTERFERENCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THE INITIAL DISCLOSURE

OF OUR TALKS HAD OCCURRED.

"SO WE DETERMINED ON A SIMPLE STATEMENT OF THE FACTS AS

WE UNDERSTAND THEM. I HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED MY REGRET
IF OUR TONE WAS WRONG, BUT I BELIEVE THE FACTS OF THE
POSITION AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM WERE FAIRLY SET OUT, AND
CERTAINLY IF THE STATEMENT CONTAINS ANY ERRORS, WE SHALL
BE PROMPT TO CORRECT THEM.

"IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL NORTH AMERICANS THAT OF COURSE
ALL FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT CANADA'S ROLE IN OUR COMMON
DEFENSE ARE FOR CANADA TO MAKE, AND WE IN THE US KNOW
ONLY TOO WELL THAT DECISIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR DEFENSE ARE
PARTICULARLY TESTING AND PAINFUL.

"WE SHALL ALWAYS RESPECT THE CLEAR DECISIONS OF CANADA
AND ADAPT OUR POLICIES AS WELL AS WE CAN TO THOSE
DECISIONS, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IN THE
LONG RUN THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PEOPLES, WHICH WE VALUE
SO HIGHLY NOT ONLY PERMITS, BUT REQUIRES, OPEN AND CLEAR
EXPLANATIONS ON GREAT COMMON PROBLEMS." ROBINSON

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